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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BRIAN SCHATZ, a Senator from the State of Hawaii.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O Holy God, friend unseen, we lean on Your everlasting arm. Help our Senators throughout life's changing seasons. When they are discouraged, fill them with Your faith. When they are oppressed, empower them to persevere with Your might, for You are our strength, our rock, our all. Remind them that any effort You require of them will ultimately have a positive effect. Give them the spirit of wisdom so that they will know You better. Lord, guide them so that they will find a way to unite in producing creative legislation.

We pray in Your gracious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BRIAN SCHATZ led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE:
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 11, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BRIAN SCHATZ, a Sen-

ator from the State of Hawaii, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SCHATZ thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks the Senate will resume consideration of the gun legislation. The time until 11 a.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. At 11 o'clock there will be a cloture vote on a motion to proceed to S. 649, which is the gun safety legislation.

If cloture is invoked, I hope we can reach an agreement to begin debate on the bill today. We have people waiting in the wings to offer amendments. The first amendment that will be offered is one that has been being negotiated for quite some time between Senator MANCHIN and Senator TOOMEY and Senator KIRK. I have had calls from my Republican colleagues indicating they have some amendments they want to offer. So let's get on the bill. Let's not waste 30 hours. I hope that can happen so we can start legislating today.

GUN SAFETY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, life can change in a moment. In Carson City, NV, a little over a year ago—actually, time goes quickly; it was in September of 2011, September 6—shortly before 9 o'clock in the morning, a deeply disturbed man with an automatic weapon stepped out of his car outside of a Carson City, NV, restaurant. In the few brief seconds that followed, he fired

nearly 80 rounds from an automatic weapon, spraying bullets over the parking lot and into an IHOP restaurant that was packed with customers for breakfast. He killed four people instantly, wounded seven others, and then he took his own life after that. That took 85 seconds. In those 85 seconds, 5 lives ended, and countless more were altered forever.

Three Nevada Army National Guardsmen were on their way to work that morning: 31-year-old SFC Miranda McElhiney, 38-year-old SFC Christian Riege, and 35-year-old MAJ Heath Kelly. Florence Donovan-Gunderson, who was eating breakfast with her husband, was also killed—murdered.

In 85 seconds, Carson City joined the likes of Tucson, AZ, Fort Hood, TX, Blacksburg, VA, Columbine, CO, and scores of other cities and towns in America rocked by mass shootings in recent decades. And as were those other cities and towns, Carson City was left asking, Why? Maybe we will never know.

The gunman had been diagnosed earlier with schizophrenia. He had been involuntarily committed by law enforcement officials to a mental institution. He recently confided to a priest that voices he heard in his head told him to continue to do bad things. A lot is not clear.

What is clear is how the shooter obtained two assault rifles, two handguns, and almost 600 rounds of ammunition he took to the IHOP that day. I don't know—no one really knows—what happened. It is not clear what happened. Where did he get those weapons—two assault rifles, two handguns, and about 600 rounds of ammunition that he took with him to the parking lot to start shooting people?

Even though all of that is not clear in terms of how he obtained those assault weapons, this much is clear: We have a responsibility to do everything in our power to keep guns out of the hands of those who suffer from mental

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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